

By: Representative Snowden

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 1538

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE HISTORICAL MAGNOLIA FLAG WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL
3 DESIGN OF THE OFFICIAL STATE FLAG; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH OF THE
4 DESIGNS OF THE OFFICIAL FLAG WILL BE OF EQUAL STATUS AND DIGNITY
5 IN REPRESENTING THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND EACH DESIGN MAY BE
6 FLOWN INDIVIDUALLY AS THE OFFICIAL FLAG OR THEY MAY BE FLOWN
7 TOGETHER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 WHEREAS, on December 10, 1817, Mississippi was admitted to
9 the United States as the 20th state of the Union, and in 2017, the
10 State of Mississippi will celebrate its bicentennial as a state;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, as we look forward to entering our third century of
13 statehood, we also reflect back upon our long and eventful
14 history, and desire to adopt a distinctive symbol of our statehood
15 with meaningful roots in our state's history to coincide with our
16 bicentennial; and

17 WHEREAS, Mississippi did not have an official state flag in
18 its early years of statehood, and it was not until 1861 that the
19 first official flag was adopted, the Magnolia Flag, which flew as



20 the official state flag from 1861 through 1865 and continued in
21 use as a state flag until 1894; and

22 WHEREAS, the original state flag of Mississippi is a
23 distinctive symbol of our state that represents and honors our
24 history, and we feel that it is most appropriate to adopt the
25 historical Magnolia Flag as an additional design of the official
26 state flag that may be flown with equal status and dignity to
27 represent our state as we begin our third century as a member of
28 the United States; NOW, THEREFORE,

29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

30 **SECTION 1.** Section 3-3-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
31 amended as follows:

32 3-3-16. (1) The official flag of the State of Mississippi
33 shall * * * be each of the following designs:

34 (a) With width two-thirds (2/3) of its length; with the
35 union (canton) to be square, in width two-thirds (2/3) of the
36 width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad
37 blue saltire thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with
38 thirteen (13) mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding with
39 the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be
40 divided into three (3) bars of equal width, the upper one blue,
41 the center one white, and the lower one, extending the whole
42 length of the flag, red (the national colors); this being the flag
43 adopted by the Mississippi Legislature in the 1894 Special
44 Session * * * ; and



45 (b) The width is two-thirds (2/3) of its length; the
46 canton is square, having a width one-third (1/3) of the width of
47 the flag; the color of the canton is dark blue with a five-pointed
48 white star in the center; the field is white with a dark green
49 tree of the Magnolia grandiflora with white flowers, located in
50 the center of the fly; and a vertical red bar is on the edge of
51 the fly; this being the Magnolia Flag that was the first official
52 flag of the State of Mississippi from 1861 through 1865 and
53 continued in use as a state flag until 1894.

54 (2) Each of the designs of the official flag shall be of
55 equal status and dignity in representing the State of Mississippi,
56 and each design may be flown individually as the official flag or
57 they may be flown together. The inclusion in this section of the
58 Magnolia Flag as an additional design of the official state flag
59 does not lessen the status of the 1894 flag as also being the
60 official state flag.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after January 1, 2017.

